



LIST OF APPROVED REEP-EVALUATORS



REEP EVALUATORS LIST - 2018
THE OHIO COMMISSION OF MINORITY HEALTH

Beckham, Julius, Ph.D., M.P.A.

Contact Information

Julius Beckham Ph.D., MPA
Asst. Dir. of Student Services
Wright State University
665 Ridgedale Rd.
Dayton, OH. 45406
937-313-8642
JuliusBeckham@sbcglobal.net

Areas of Interest/Expertise

Interest: minority issues in the areas of health, education, and community
Expertise: public education, people with disabilities, psychology

Recent Grant Projects

Beckham, J. (2016, April). Fairborn, Ohio sign code comparison: Public policy research

This project compared Fairborn, Ohio's sign code ordinances to local and national sign code ordinances to find evidence if Fairborn's sign code was too restrictive to business development.

Beckham, J. (2015, November). Sunlight Village: Program Grant for Sunlight Village

This project helped a local nonprofit to fund the Living Village Program. The goal is to increase the awareness and accessibility of preventive education and direct counseling to young ladies and young men (ages 14-25) on the subject of infant mortality.

Carla M. Clansen, MPH, RN

Contact Information

The Rucks Group
714 E. Monument Ave.
Dayton, OH 45402
937.242.7024 (w)
937.272.5507 (c)
cclansen@therucksgroup.com

Areas of Interest/Expertise

Interest: minority issues in the areas of health, education, and community
Expertise: public education, people with disabilities, psychology

Recent Grant Projects

Evaluation of the Innovation Mission, Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland

The Rucks Group is providing external evaluation for this project, addressing the questions of: 1) to what extent did fellows gain skills necessary to develop and carry out innovations; 2) what program elements were most and least effective; 3) how did the stage and nature of the fellows' ideas impact their success; and 4) what innovations were developed during the 18 months of the project and where are they headed after the fellowship. Methods include survey of the fellows, feedback from fellows re: professional development workshops, periodic interviews with the fellows and stakeholders of the project, and documents review

Cleveland Office of Minority Health

The Rucks Group is providing external evaluation assessing to what extent the COMH is successfully meeting goals and outputs related to the five competencies identified by the Ohio Commission on Minority Health: 1) monitor and report the health status of minority populations; 2) inform, educate and empower people; 3) mobilize community partnerships and action; 4) develop policies and plans to support health efforts; and 5) build sustainability for the local office. Methods include documents review, analysis of feedback from presentations done by the COMH, survey of Advisory Board members, and discussion with the Director of the COMH.

Evaluation of the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program Family Engagement and Retention Efforts in Ohio Department of Health

Measurement Resources Company (MRC) and The Rucks Group collaborated with the Ohio Department of Health to conduct an evaluation to assess the impact of how the engagement of families affects retention of families in the home visiting program. Methods included observation of home visits, survey of families and home visitors. Analysis looked at the association of family characteristics, home visitor characteristics, and family engagement in home visiting with retention in the program.

Clasen, C. (The Rucks Group) (2014) Evaluation of the Center for Allaying Health Disparities through Research and Education (CADRE) Central State University

The purpose of the CADRE Project was to enhance research infrastructure and capacity at Central State University in order to increase faculty research and encourage minority students to pursue graduate studies in the biomedical sciences. The project had four major core foci: 1) enhancement of research facilities and technology; 2) strengthen organizational structure, administrative and research infrastructure; 3) enhance faculty research development and training; and 4) promote academic enrichment programs in basic research methodologies for students. Methods included documents review and faculty interviews.

Design of an Evaluation Framework for Programs Targeted to Improvement of Minority Health

A statewide multidisciplinary team generated a culturally appropriate evaluation system for use in assessing the outcomes of Commission-funded health promotion, disease prevention, and health education projects addressing the needs of African Americans, Asian Americans, Latinos, and Native Americans. A guidance manual was prepared which identifies for grantees the process of developing a logic model and evaluation plan, specifies the need for outcome indicators that reflect actual behavioral change, and defines process indicators. The need for culturally appropriate evaluation methods is stressed, and examples of instruments that have been validated with minority groups are included.

Cathy Corcella, B.A.

Contact Information

Corcella, Cathy, B.A. Economics
Economist/Grant Writer
361 N Ardmore Road
Columbus, Ohio 43209
Phone: 614-252-3023
Email: cathy.corcella@gmail.com

Areas of Interest/Expertise

Primary Care, Primary and Behavioral Health Care Integration, Health Disparities, Chronic Disease Management, Medication Assisted Treatment

Recent Evaluation Projects

Recovery Consultants of Atlanta: Health Resources and Services Administration Community Health Center Program 2015 Uniform Data System evaluation report

Charlotte Community Health Clinic: Health Resources and Services Administration Community Health Center Program 2015 Uniform Data System evaluation report

Firelands Counseling and Recovery Services: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Primary and Behavioral Health Care Integration Cohort V and Cohort VIII grantee on-going evaluation

Firelands Regional Medical Center: Susan G. Komen for the Cure Northwest Ohio Affiliate community grant funding mid-year and final evaluation report

Recent Grant Projects

Health Partners of Western Ohio: U.S. DHHS Substance Abuse Expansion \$677,083

Recovery Consultants of Atlanta: U.S. DHHS New Access Point \$1,206,667

Charlotte Community Health Clinic: U.S. DHHS New Access Point \$1,206,667

Firelands Counseling and Recovery Services: U.S. DHHS Primary and Behavioral Health Care Integration \$1,536,012

Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Seneca, Sandusky and Wyandot Counties: Ohio MHAS \$298,514

Bradfield Community Association: Ohio DOE \$85,000

CELIA WILLIAMSON, Ph.D.

Contact Information

Williamson, Celia, PhD
Professor Social Work/Director Human Trafficking
& Social Justice Institute, University of Toledo
2801 W. Bancroft St., MS 119
Toledo, OH, 43606
Phone: 419-215-8853
Email: celia.williamson@utoledo.edu

Areas of Interest/Expertise

Human Trafficking; Social Justice e.g. healthy disparities

Sample Recent Projects

2016 – present

Human Trafficking Research Project

Serve as PI on a statewide project assessing the implementation of a Human Trafficking Screening Tool and identifying those best practices in domestic minor sex trafficking prevention. In collaboration with Kim Jordan, JD Ohio State University; Anthony Talbott, University of Dayton; Peggy Adams, BGSU. Lead Research Associate: Sandy Sieben, MSW

2016 – present

Pathways Project Cincinnati

Serve as PI on a qualitative evaluation identifying those effective elements of reducing health disparities among pregnant women involved in the Pathways Program in Cincinnati, OH. Lead Research Associate: Faith Kelleher, MSW

2016- present

Pathways Project Columbus

Serve as PI on a qualitative evaluation identifying those effective elements of reducing health disparities among pregnant women involved in the Pathways Program in Columbus, OH. Lead Research Associate: Sandy Sieben, MSW

2016- present

Pathways Project Mansfield

Serve as PI on a qualitative evaluation identifying those effective elements of reducing health disparities among pregnant women involved in the Pathways Program in Mansfield, OH.

2013- present

Initiative/Improve Birth Outcomes

Serve as PI on a qualitative evaluation identifying those effective elements of reducing health disparities among pregnant women in Lucas County involved in the Pathways Program in Lucas County, OH.

2015- present

Burden of Chronic Disease

Serve as PI on a qualitative evaluation identifying those effective elements of reducing health disparities amongst those with chronic diseases. Lead Research Associate: Patrice Wiley, MSW

2015- present

Healthy Start

Serve as PI on a qualitative evaluation of the Healthy Start Program with a focus on ongoing quality improvement. Lead Research Associate, Lisa Belton, MSW

2015- present

Community Health Worker Project

Serve as PI on a qualitative evaluation identifying those effective elements to the successful completion of the Community Health Worker Project that provide scholarship, education, and jobs to those in poverty. Lead Research Associate, Kizzy Williams, MPH

2010- 2012

Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking in Ohio

PI on a five city quantitative study to determine early indicators and high and low risk areas for domestic minor sex trafficking. Edward Byrne Memorial Discretionary Grants Program. Lead Research Associate, Tasha Perdue, MSW

2010

Human Trafficking Prevalence in Ohio

As Chair of the Research Sub-Committee of the Attorney General’s Human Trafficking Study Commission to study trafficking in Ohio I completed a research study titled, “.Preliminary Report on the Prevalence and At-Risk Victims of Human Trafficking in Ohio”. This study was the first in the nation to determine the number of human trafficking victims that are in a state. The report is on the Ohio Attorney General’s website and has been used and referenced by numerous newspaper articles, blogs, and websites.

2008-2010

Human Trafficking Coalition Effectiveness

University-Community Collaboration to Increase Effective Services for Child Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation. Edward Byrne Memorial Discretionary Grants Program. FY 2008 to 2010. Bring critical systems together to built protocols and remove barriers for the benefit of human trafficking victims and accountability.

Cheryl L. Meyer, J.D., Ph.D.

Contact Information

Meyer, Cheryl L., J.D., Ph.D.
Professor, Wright State University
117 Health Sciences Building
3640 Colonel Glenn Highway
Dayton, Ohio 45435-0001
Phone: 937-775-3459
Email: Cheryl.Meyer@Wright.Edu

Areas of Interest/Expertise

Forensic Psychology
Program Evaluation
Maternal Filicide
Corrections

Research Methods
Health Law
Intrafamilial Conflict and Violence
Public Health

Sample Recent Projects

Professionals Accelerating Clinical and Educational Redesign (PACER), Expanding the PCMH: An Inter-Professional Faculty Development Project with Wright State University and Community Partners. Oregon Health and Science University. 2015-present

Ohio Department of Mental Health, Evaluation of treatment mall. Report available in *Current Research Trends*, 3(1), 68-75, (2015).

Central State University, Dayton, Ohio. (2011-2013). Evaluator for the K4L Youth Empowerment Program which was funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office on Minority Health. Constructed surveys, conducted focus groups, analyzed data and wrote reports.

Ohio Fatherhood Initiative. (2012-2013). Evaluator for the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services assessing programs throughout Ohio that have been funded by the initiative. Developed assessment tool, conducted interviews, analyzed data and wrote reports.

East End Community Services, Dayton, Ohio. (2011 to 2013). Evaluator for "A Better Future" diabetes awareness program funded through the Ohio Commission on Minority Health. Constructed surveys and tracking forms, conducted focus groups, analyzed data and wrote reports.



Chiyaka, Edward

Contact Information

Edward Chiyaka, MSc. BSc.
Kent State University
330 274 6679
echiyaka@kent.edu

Areas of Interest/Expertise

Interest: Health economics, health policy research and program evaluation using big data, survival analysis, and outcomes research.

Expertise: Public Health, Health Policy, Project Evaluation, Statistical Research Methods.

Sample Recent Projects

Chiyaka, E. (2016, November). Pathways Innovative Intervention Evaluation. This is a community based intervention which has existed for more than a year and is ongoing. The program targets adults who are at risk or have chronic conditions in the Toledo-Lucas county area and it seeks to improve healthcare access and health outcomes. Community Health Workers perform an assessment to determine the Pathways to be opened for each client who is enrolled into the program and all program activities are monitored through a central HUB. The HUB utilizes a “fee for performance” payment model where care coordinating agencies are paid based on specific, measurable outcomes they achieve with their clients. Results indicate that the program was successful in its first year

Chiyaka, E. (2012, October). An Evaluation of the Use of Point of Care PIMA CD4 Cell Count Machines for HIV Positive Women and their Families in Maternal Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) Settings in Seven Districts in Zimbabwe.

This community-based intervention lasted one year and targeted pregnant women and their families in seven districts of Zimbabwe. Women who presented themselves for antenatal care were provided counselling services and were tested for HIV using portable point of care machines and results were given within a 20-minute window. The women and their families were provided with education on the importance of knowing their status in order to protect the unborn child. Results indicate that the program was successful and it was scaled up to cover all districts in Zimbabwe.



JONES, MITTIE DAVIS, Ph.D.

Contact Information

Mittie Davis Jones, Ph.D.
Chair and Associate Professor
Cleveland State University
2121 Euclid Avenue, UR 238B
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
Phone: 216-687-3861
Email: m.d.jones97@csuohio.edu

Areas of Interest/Expertise

Program development, program evaluation, proposal writing, public policy, urban development, urban diversity, educational policy, health disparities

Sample Recent Projects

Jones, M.D. (in process). Diabetes Prevention Program. Murtis Taylor Human Services System.

Jones, M.D. (2015). 21st Century Community Learning Center Evaluation. Murtis Taylor Human Services System.

Hexter, K, Jones, M.D., Keating, W.D., Mikelbank, B. (2014-2015). Understanding the Location Decisions of CMHA's Housing Choice Voucher Holders: Pilot Study. Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority.

Jones, M.D. (2013-2015). Neighborhood Leadership Academy Evaluation. Neighborhood Leadership Institute.

Jones, M.D. (2008-2015). Cleveland Office of Minority Health Evaluation. Cleveland Office of Minority Health.

Jones, M.D. (2011-2012). Youth Steppin' Up Diabetes Prevention Program Evaluation. Early Childhood Options.

Jones, M.D. (2009-2010) Parents as Leaders Training Academy Evaluation. Neighborhood Leadership Institute.

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Deborah Crawford, M.S.W., M.A.P.A., L.S.W.

Contact Information

Crawford, Deborah A., MSW, MAPA, LSW
Deborah A. Crawford Consulting LLC
33 Glencoe Road, Columbus, OH 43214
Phone: 614-263-7491
Email: crawford@columbus.rr.com

Areas of Interest/Expertise

Program & Organizational Services for Doing Good Better
Assessment | Evaluation | Facilitation | Grant Research & Writing

Special areas of interest: needs assessment, program development, best practices research and logic model development

Sample Recent Projects

2012 – 2016 - Extensive grant writing, needs assessment and proposal development for Transformative Consulting LLC. Projects include numerous Health Resources and Services Administration applications for federal funding for federally qualified health centers' (FQHC) operations funding, dental service expansion and integrated care service expansion as well as Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration application for FQHC expansion of substance abuse/integrated care services.

2016 - Currently providing REEP evaluation support for Columbus Public Health's Office of Minority Health funded by Ohio Commission on Minority Health (OCMH). My work includes reviewing program reports and materials, support for survey and other instrument development, logic model development and completing quarterly, annual and bi-annual reports.

2011 – 2013 - Completed REEP evaluation support for Health Partners of Western Ohio (FQHC) – Empower Project. Final evaluation report submitted Sept. 2013 to OCMH. Project's goal was to reduce risk factors associated with Type 2 diabetes using an eight-week curriculum in collaboration with American Diabetes Association. My work included reviewing descriptive statistics, assessing pre- and post-program changes and completing quarterly, annual and bi-annual reports.

Lee, Eunlye, PhD

Contact Information

Eunlye Lee, PhD
Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods
Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics
Case Western Reserve University
11000 Cedar Ave. Cleveland, 44106
Phone: 216-368-0337E
mail: exl182@case.edu

Areas of Interest/Expertise

Areas of Interest: My overarching goal of research is to promote the health and well-being of low-income minority populations. Specifically, my research focuses on identifying multi-level risk and protective factors that influence health-related behaviors of low-income and high-risk Asian Americans. My long term goal is to develop, implement, and disseminate community-based prevention and intervention programs that target chronic diseases such as obesity, diabetes, and cancer through close partnerships with community organizations.

Expertise: I have extensive experience in planning, implementing, and evaluating community-based prevention and intervention programs to address health disparities among low-income ethnic minority populations through close partnerships with community organizations in diverse settings. My current work at the Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods focuses on developing web-based assessment tools of community readiness and capacity that can be used by front-line practitioners who are interested in implementing policy, system, and environmental (PSE) change interventions such as farmers' markets for low-income populations. My major role in this mixed methods study include qualitative data collection and analysis, development of measures about community readiness and capacity for obesity prevention, evaluation of the assessment tools, and dissemination of findings.

In addition, I am well versed in quantitative analytic methods. I have received advanced statistics trainings, including Survival analysis, Structural Equation Modeling (SEM), and Hierarchical Linear Modeling (HLM) and applied these skills into my research. Particularly, my dissertation used competing risk models in survival analysis and examined the role of neighborhood disorder and neighborhood social capital in predicting cigarette, alcohol, and marijuana use initiation among low-income Latino and African American adolescents who resided a significant period of their childhood in a public housing in Denver, Colorado. Taken together, I am confident that I am well qualified for a REEP evaluator aiming at promoting health disparity research through close community partnerships as well as sound evaluation of health promotion projects.

Sample Recent Projects

Lee, E., Dalton, J., Ngendahimana, D., Bebo, P., Davis, A., Remley, D., Smathers, C., & Freedman, D. A. (Revise and Resubmit). Consensus-based assessment tool of readiness and capacity for implementing community-based nutrition interventions: A case study using farmers' markets. *Translational Behavioral Medicine*.

This manuscript describes a consensus-based modeling approach used to develop web-based assessment tools of community readiness and capacity that can be used by front-line practitioners who are interested in implementing farmers' markets for low-income populations. Modeling methods included, Phase 1: qualitative study with community stakeholders to explore facilitators and barriers influencing successful implementation of farmers' market interventions in low-income communities; Phase 2: development of indicators based on operationalization of qualitative findings; Phase 3: assessment of relevance and importance of indicators and themes through consensus conference with expert panel; Phase 4: refinement of indicators based on consensus conference; and Phase 5: pilot test of the assessment tool. Findings illuminate a range of implementation factors influencing farmers' market PSE interventions and offer guidance for tailoring intervention delivery based on levels of community, practitioner, and organizational readiness and capacity. This study was supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2B01OT009042-15) and the U. S. Department of Agriculture (award number G-1415-17- 0847 and award number G-1617-0452).

Santiago, A. M., Galster, G. C., Lucero, J. L., Ishler, K., Lee, E., Kypriotakis, G., & Stack, L. (2014). *Opportunity neighborhoods for Latino and African American children*. Washington, DC: U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Policy Development and Research.

This report is an evaluation of a natural experiment involving the Denver, Colorado, Housing Authority (DHA), which since 1969 has operated public housing units located in a wide range of neighborhoods throughout the city and county of Denver. It explores the extent to which multiple dimensions of neighborhood context affect the physical and behavioral health, exposure to violence, risky behaviors, education, youth and young adult labor market outcomes, and marriage and childbearing of Latino and African-American children and youth from low-income families. This report was prepared under U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant H-12612-CA.

LANGE, JEFFREY K., Ph.D.

Contact Information

Lange, Jeffrey K., Ph.D. (Sociology)
Senior Research Project Manager
Adjunct Social Science Faculty Member
Lorain County Community College
1005 Abbe Road N

Elyria, OH 44035
Phone: 440-366-7572
Email: jlange@lorainccc.edu

Areas of Interest/Expertise

Research Interests and Experience: Maternal and Child Health, Educational Programs for At-Risk Students, Criminal Justice and Corrections, Health Statistics, Public Health, Public Works and Infrastructure; Higher Education Enrollment Trends, Standardized Testing.

Teaching experience in Sociology, Criminal Justice, Urban Studies, and Geography.

Sample Recent Projects

Lorain County Storm Water Management Implementation Options for More Effective & Efficient Storm Water Control (April 2010) with Shara Davis

Lorain County Child and Family Health Services: Community Health Indicators Update (September 2011)

Lorain County Health Status (July 2012) with Shara Davis

Medina County Living Well Initiative – Asset Inventory Report (May 2015)

Stocker Foundation Grant Impact Analysis (July 2015) with Shara Davis

Cuyahoga Valley National Park Conservancy, Environmental Education Summer Academy Evaluation Results– Akron City School District (September 2015)

Cuyahoga Valley National Park Conservancy, Environmental Education Summer Academy Evaluation Results – Addendum: Cleveland Municipal School District and Lorain City School District (September 2015)

Gaining Early Awareness & Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) Evaluation (November 2015) with Visobe Welch

Jennifer E. Subban, M.U.R.P., Ph.D.

Contact Information

Subban, Jennifer E., MURP, Ph.D. Urban Affairs
Associate Professor Urban Affairs
Director, Nonprofit Leadership Alliance

Wright State University
1944 Oak Tree Drive
Kettering, OH 45440
Phone: 937-554-2795
Email: jesubban@gmail.com

Areas of Interest/Expertise

Interest: Community Development
Addressing Disparities in Urban Environments,
Cultural Competence
Nonprofit/NGO
Leadership Development

Expertise Urban and Community Development
Community Building & Cultural Competence
Nonprofit/NGO Development
Community-Based Youth Leadership Development
Youth Leadership Development
Mentoring

Sample Projects

Subban, J. (2015-2016). REEP Evaluator for Health Care Access Now.

Supported HCAN in developing the logic model for their grant application on diabetes prevention. This includes a focus on both qualitative and quantitative measures. I am an integral part of HCAN's project team to learn about their processes and provide input to ensure that the grant is being executed in ways that support its goals. Develop quarterly reports based on process and output measures and when available, will include outcome measures. Participate in meetings with OCMH evaluator Manoj Sharma. Supported HCAN in developing the logic model for the year 2 proposal.

Subban, J. (2009 – 2016) TOTS (Taking Off to Success) Evaluator

Evaluate the TOTS program's parenting component in terms of parent satisfaction with the program, evaluation of parents' social capital currency, and process evaluation of the program from both parent and staff perspectives. Related work involves identifying program improvements to support families as they work to support their children's academic success, including new elements for the model used (2-Gen Model) and inter-organizational relationships necessary to ensure that efforts yield the desired outcomes.

Subban (2015-2016). Wright LEAD Community-Based Youth Leadership Institute

Evaluation research on Wright LEAD South Africa, a Community-Based Youth Leadership Institute implemented with high school youth in Durban, South Africa. Instruments used

included a leadership survey, the Cross-Cultural Inventory Assessment, and focus group conversations.

Subban (2015-2016). Wright LEAD Community-Based Youth Leadership Institute

Developed a proposal for implementation of a new Community-Based Community Conservation & Community Mapping Institute for the Wright LEAD program to be implemented in Durban, South Africa. Conducted research on community-based conservation and community mapping and used the research to frame the Institute. Developed the evaluation plan for the project. This project extends existing Community-Based Youth Leadership Institutes offered to South African youth annually.

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JIUNN-JYE SHEU, Ph.D., M.S.P.H., M.C.H.E.S.

Contact Information

Sheu, Jiunn-Jye, PhD, MSPH, MCHES
Associate Professor and Coordinator for PhD in
Health Education Program
University of Toledo
2801 W. Bancroft Street MS#119
Toledo, OH 43606-3390
Phone: 419-530-4577
Email: jiunnjye.sheu@utoledo.edu

Areas of Interest/Expertise

Health behavior intervention; adolescent health risk behaviors; survey methodology; program evaluation; statistics

Recent Projects

Sheu, J.J. (2016) Evaluation of Local Minority Health Office (2014-present). Ohio Commission on Minority Health.

Mahas, R. & Sheu, J. J. Predictors of Adult Women Meeting Pap Test USPSTF National Recommendation.

Blavos, A., Glassman, T., Sheu, J.J., Thompson, A., & Yingling, F. The Outcomes of Medical Marijuana Policies on College Students.

Sheu, J. J. & Mahas, R. Twenty-two-year Trend Comparisons Showed Racial/Ethnic Disparities in School-based HIV/AIDS Education among Adolescents.

Evans, N. & Sheu, J. J. The Relationships between Perceived Discrimination and Utilization of Mental Health Services among African Americans and Caribbean Blacks.

Mahas, R. & Sheu, J. J. A Systematic Literature Review on the Predicting Factors of Pap Test Behavior among Adult Women.

Leigh, L. & Sheu, J. J. An Ecological Analysis of African Countries on Factors Associated with Child Marriage.

Taylor, C., Sheu, J. J., Chen, H. S., & Glassman, T. Path Model Validation on the Intention to Administer PRN Opioid Analgesics for Pain Relief to Hospitalized Post-orthopedic Surgery Patients.

Payton, E. D., Thompson, A., Price, J. H., Sheu, J. J., & Dake, J. A. (2015). African American Legislators' Perceptions of Firearm Violence Prevention Legislation. Journal of Community Health, 40(3), 439-447.

Sheu, J. J., Chen, W. W., & Chen, H. S. (2016). Chapter 5 – Making Decisions to Create and Support a Program. In Fertman, C. I. & Allenworth, D. D. (ed.) Health Promotion Programs: From Theory to Practice. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.

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Karen H. Larwin, Ph.D.

Contact Information

Larwin, Karen H. , PhD
Associate Professor
Youngstown State University
One University Circle
Youngstown, Ohio 44555
Phone: 330.509.5266
Email: khlarwin@gmail.com

Areas of Interest/Expertise

Interest: Health education and behavioral intervention; community wellness and family wellness; adolescent choices and risky behaviors; healthy lifestyles and disease prevention.

Expertise All areas of program, impact, and process evaluation. All areas of quantitative research and analysis including but not limited to measurement, survey design, research design, and advanced analytics. All areas of qualitative and mixed-methods designs, include Delphi, Q-methods, Social Network Analysis

Sample Recent Projects

Larwin, K. H. (2012, October). *Healthcare cost reduction initiative: Summative Report for the HRSA Grant*

This project was funded by HRSA. The goal of this project was to provide a community wide wellness initiative that would result in slowing down the cost of employer provided health care. Results indicate that a number of untreated conditions were identified and treated, therefore reducing the likelihood of the need for catastrophic care if the individuals followed their maintenance plan. Participants indicated that the educational meetings helped them to change their behavior, increased their knowledge, and had an impact on their attitudes about health eating, exercise, and physician visits.

Larwin, K.H. (2015). *Summative Report: Keeping PACE Akron's Way*

This is a state commission funded grant project was an educational initiative aimed at reducing the prevalence of diabetes through education and exercise. This is a community-based intervention lasted two years and targeted student's in the Akron Ohio area. Students were provided with education about nutrition, exercise, and the causes of diabetes. Results indicate that student's knowledge and reported behaviors improved regarding their food/drink consumption and their daily activities.

Lana Rucks, Ph.D.

Contact Information

The Rucks Group
714 E. Monument Ave.
Dayton, OH 45402
937.242.7024
lrucks@therucksgroup.com

Areas of Interest/Expertise

Interest: Evaluation theory, STEM evaluation, Education evaluation, Social psychology
Expertise Development and implementation of evaluation plans, program improvement, qualitative and quantitative data analysis, research design, report writing, client communication

Recent Sample Projects:

Evaluation of The Innovation Mission, Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland

Five fellows were selected and supported to develop an innovative idea to address poverty in Cleveland. The Rucks Group is providing external evaluation for this project, addressing the questions of: 1) to what extent did fellows gain skills necessary to develop and carry out innovations; 2) what program elements were most and least effective; 3) how did the stage and nature of the fellows' ideas impact their success; and 4) what innovations were developed during the 18 months of the project and where are they headed after the fellowship. Methods include survey of the fellows, feedback from fellows re: professional development workshops, periodic interviews with the fellows and stakeholders of the project, and documents review

Cleveland Office of Minority Health

The Rucks Group is providing external evaluation assessing to what extent the COMH is successfully meeting goals and outputs related to the five competencies identified by the Ohio Commission on Minority Health: 1) monitor and report the health status of minority populations; 2) inform, educate and empower people; 3) mobilize community partnerships and action; 4) develop policies and plans to support health efforts; and 5) build sustainability for the local office. Methods include documents review, analysis of feedback from presentations done by the COMH, survey of Advisory Board members, and discussion with the Director of the COMH.

Evaluation of the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program Family Engagement and Retention Efforts in Ohio Ohio Department of Health

Measurement Resources Company (MRC) and The Rucks Group collaborated with the Ohio Department of Health to conduct an evaluation to assess the impact of how the engagement of families affects retention of families in the home visiting program. Methods included observation of home visits, survey of families and home visitors. Analysis looked at the association of family characteristics, home visitor characteristics, and family engagement in home visiting with retention in the program.

Evaluation of the Improving Pathways for STEM Retention and Graduation (IPSRG), Central State University

The purpose of IPSRG is to increase the number of STEM majors, including military veterans, who successfully enter the STEM workforce or pursue advanced degrees by increasing the retention, persistence, and graduation rates through enhanced quality academic experiences. The purpose of the evaluative efforts is to capture information regarding the effectiveness of the implementation of activities for continuous improvement while also gathering evidence of the outcomes of the project. Methods include structured interviews with project staff and STEM instructors, survey of students, document review of relevant project materials, and collection of administrative data.

Evaluation of the Center for Allaying Health Disparities through Research and Education (CADRE), Central State University

The purpose of the CADRE Project was to enhance research infrastructure and capacity at Central State University in order to increase faculty research and encourage minority students to pursue graduate studies in the biomedical sciences. The project had four major core foci: 1) enhancement of research facilities and technology; 2) strengthen organizational structure, administrative and research infrastructure; 3) enhance faculty research development and training; and 4) promote academic enrichment programs in basic research methodologies for students. Methods included documents review and faculty interviews.

LIZ PIATT, Ph.D.

Contact Information

Piatt, Liz, PhD
Associate Professor, Sociology
Hiram College
PO BOX 67
Hiram, Ohio 44234
Phone: 330-569-5215
Email: piattee@hiram.edu

Areas of Interest/Expertise

Social psychological explanations for race disparities in physical and mental health; the role of patient and physician narrative in addressing racial health disparities; program evaluation with particular interest in programs aimed at reducing/eliminating race disparities in health.

Sample Recent Projects

Scott, ED, Gil K, Bing BC and Piatt E. 2015. Clinical Outcomes in a Primary Care Practice Within a Center for Health Equity." *Journal of Primary Care and Community Health* 6: 4: 239-242.

"Piatt, Elizabeth. 2015. "Navigating Veronika: How Access, Knowledge and Attitudes Shaped My Sister's Care." Health Affairs 34: 2: 350-353.

Piatt, Elizabeth. 2008-2012. Evaluation of the Akron/Summit County Public Health Office of Minority Health (Commission funded project).

This was a Commission funded project to complete both a formative and summative evaluation of a local office of minority health.

Piatt, Elizabeth. 2013-2015. The SWEET Life: A Diabetes Risk Reduction Program. Center for Health Equity at Summa Health, Akron Ohio.

This was a Commission funded demonstration project to evaluate the effectiveness of a diabetes risk reduction program for two groups: African-Americans and limited English proficiency.

Shara L. Davis, M.A.

Contact Information

Davis, Shara L, MA
Dean of Research, Institutional Effectiveness, &
Public Services, Lorain County Community College
1005 Abbe Rd North
Elyria OH 44035
Phone: 440-366-7578
Email: sdavis@lorainccc.edu

Areas of Interest/Expertise

Healthcare, human services, economic development, workforce development, higher education, human services, marketing and policy research, research design and application, secondary data sources, survey methodology, focus group facilitation, outcome-based program evaluation.

Sample Recent Projects

- Served as Assistant Director for Research for the Center for Urban Studies at the University of Akron
- Created and established a full-capacity research laboratory for the Center for Urban Studies at the University of Akron
- Taught undergraduate courses including Introduction to Government and Politics, Current Policy Issues, and Introductory Research Methods
- Established a full service research center and cost recovery unit at Lorain County Community College within four years
- Has designed research studies using both quantitative and qualitative data collection techniques for more than 400 clients throughout Northeast Ohio over 25 years
- Is formally trained in public deliberation or civic and leadership engagement by nationally known organizations

- Served as project director for Voices & Choices, an initiative of the Fund For Our Economic Future comprised of more than 80 philanthropic organizations throughout a sixteen county region of Northeast Ohio
- Was awarded A Key to the Region by the Northeast Ohio Area-wide Coordinating Agency
- Was called upon by Ohio's Chancellor of Higher Education to help design and facilitate the development of a new community college using innovative partnership models to serve the Mahoning Valley and eastern Ohio
- Currently provides leadership for the Public Services Institute, the Joint Center for Policy Research, and the office of Institutional Effectiveness and Planning at Lorain County Community College
- Serves as Chair of the College's Continuous Quality Improvement Council and Institutional Planning Council
- Serves on the Administrative Leadership Team, Human Resource Development Committee, Curriculum Council, Deans Council, and other committees
- Manages the College's operational system review and academic program review processes
- Serves as the College's liaison with local government officials and frequently provides leadership for large-scale, transformational change initiatives
- Serves as convener and facilitator for Lorain County's Health Improvement Plan of which infant mortality is a major focus area.

Visobe Welch, M.B.A., M.P.A.

Contact Information

Welch, Visobe, M.B.A., M.P.A.
 Senior Research Project Manager
 Lorain County Community College, Public Services
 Institute
 1005 Abbe Rd North, Elyria OH 44035
 Phone: 440-366-7416
 Email: vwelch@loroainccc.edu

Areas of Interest/Expertise

Health behavior intervention; HIV prevention, teen pregnancy prevention; survey methodology; infant mortality reduction, program evaluation

Sample Recent Projects

REEP Panel member, assisting with oversight of the evaluation of Commission's grant funded projects, 2015/2016

Infant Mortality Reduction- evaluating the Child and Family Health Services Consortium of Lorain County focused on infant mortality, 2015/2016

Dawson et al (2015) *Building state, academic, and community partnerships to improve health outcomes for racial and ethnic minorities*

Mercy Hospital, Ohio Commission on Minority Health funded Diabetes Education and Prevention Program, local evaluator

Lorain County Urban League, Ohio Commission on Minority Health funded Diabetes Education and Prevention Program, local evaluator

Lorain County Urban League, Ohio Commission on Minority Health funded Asthma Education and Prevention Program, local evaluator

Urban Minority Alcohol and Drug Abuse Outreach Program (UMADAOP), federally funded/SAMHSA HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment Project, program evaluator

Lorain City, federally/SAMHSA funded, multi-partner, Community Resilience & Recovery Initiative to improve behavioral health outcomes for Lorain City Residents, program evaluator

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